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MORE REUNIONS PLANNED

Fans are digging the Limeliters

By BRAD BOLLINGER

Glen Yarborough has been back together with the Limeliters for about 10 weeks. But the group will break up again just like last year. And then there'll be a Limeliters' reunion, 1975.

Usually when a band breaks up, it breaks up and that's it. Few if any, Yarborough admitted in a telephone interview yesterday, make coming together and breaking up an annual event — especially after being disbanded for 10 years.

But the two-year old syndrome doesn't seem to bother nostalgia seeking fans from the early '60's. Yarborough says they have been turning out in droves for the band's current 20-city tour to hear old hits like "Baby the Rain Must Fall." And, in addition, many of what Yarborough calls "critical young college kids have attended shows to "check them out."

An outgrowth of the tour will be a live album recorded at Chicago's Orchestra Hall due for release next month.

Each year, Yarborough said, his reunion with the Limeliters — Lou Gottlieb, best known for his creation of the now defunct Morning Star Ranch, and Alex Hassilev — will get shorter.

This year's reunion is about 15 weeks. Next year's, Yarborough says, will be 10 weeks.

Why? Well, Yarborough says, "I gave up being a musician several years ago," even though he has made several albums during that time including his most recently released "My Sweet Lady."

"Right now I'm waiting for the weather to change on the Caribbean," Yarborough said. He has a yatcht, and that's where he says he'd rather be.

And it's not just Yarborough that puts Glen Yarborough and the Limeliters second.

Picking up where he left off in Sonoma County, Gottleib now has a commune on the island of Maui. Hassilev has his own home recording studio and plans to do some producing.

"We get tired of it (touring)," said Yarborough. "We don't even try very hard on stage." Besides he added, "there's more excitement when you get a long vacation in between tours."

Every concert the band has done on its current tour has sold out with the exception of one — a Sunday appearance at the Marin Veterans Memorial Building in San Rafael.

Yarborough says "the fans have not forgotten us" even though the band changed considerably during the time it was disbanded from 1963 to '73.

"All the old fans want me to do Rod McKuen songs but I won't do them," Yarborough said. And it's no longer an all acoustic show. They've added Mike Settle, formerly of the New Christie Minstrels, on vocals and lead electric guitar. Gottleib has added an electric pickup to his stand up base.

"It's all changed," Yarborough said. The band does just a few of the hit songs of the early 60's and has added some new stuff like "Funky in the Country" and "Easy Now Take it Slow" by composer Bob Gibson. Even the tempo on the favorite oldie "Baby the Rain Must Fall" has been stepped up.

But Yarborough says it hasn't ruined the old sound, "it has enhanced it."

"We're just doing what we think is right," he said.

LIMELITERS MIXING UP TUNES ON CURRENT TOUR
Lou Gottleib, left, Glen Yarborough, Alex Hassilev

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